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## B1040 (FORM 1040) (12/15)

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING COVER SHEET (Instructions on Reverse)		ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NUMBER (Court Use Only)			
PLAINTIFF	DEFEND	ANT			
Teague &	Ronald G	Ronald George			
Wetsel, PLLC	Morain				
ATTORNEYS (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone No.) Cody D. Kerns & Charles E. Wetsel   Teague & Wetsel, PLLC, 1741 W. 33rd Street   Suite 120   Edmond Oklahoma, 73012	ATTORNEYS (If Known)  Alexander E. Hilton III   Alexander Hilton & Assoc., LLC  6440 Avondale Drive   Suite 201   Nichols Hills, OK 731   6				
PARTY (Check One Box Only)  □ Debtor □ U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin  ■ Creditor □ Other  □ Trustee	☐ Debtor ☐ Creditor ☐ Trustee	Check One Box Only)  □ U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin  □ Other			
CAUSE OF ACTION (WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE OF ACTION, INCLUDING ALL U.S. STATUTES INVOLVED)  Complaint to determine dischargeability of debt Ronald George Morain owes to Teague & Wetsel, PLLC; request for adequate protection or abandon property; objection to classification of Teague & Wetsel, PLLC's claim as unsecured. 11 U.S.C. §§506, 361, 522, 523, 544, 545, 547, 548, 549,  NATURE OF SUIT					
(Number up to five (5) boxes starting with lead cause of action as 1	, first alternati	ve cause as 2, second alternative cause as 3, etc.)			
FRBP 7001(1) – Recovery of Money/Property  11-Recovery of money/property - §542 turnover of property  12-Recovery of money/property - §547 preference  13-Recovery of money/property - §548 fraudulent transfer  14-Recovery of money/property - other  FRBP 7001(2) – Validity, Priority or Extent of Lien  21-Validity, priority or extent of lien or other interest in property  FRBP 7001(3) – Approval of Sale of Property  31-Approval of sale of property of estate and of a co-owner - §363(h)  FRBP 7001(4) – Objection/Revocation of Discharge  41-Objection / revocation of discharge - §727(c),(d),(e)  FRBP 7001(5) – Revocation of Confirmation  51-Revocation of confirmation	FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability (continued)  61-Dischargeability - §523(a)(5), domestic support  68-Dischargeability - §523(a)(6), willful and malicious injury  63-Dischargeability - §523(a)(8), student loan  64-Dischargeability - §523(a)(15), divorce or separation obligation (other than domestic support)  65-Dischargeability - other  FRBP 7001(7) – Injunctive Relief  71-Injunctive relief – imposition of stay  72-Injunctive relief – other  FRBP 7001(8) Subordination of Claim or Interest  81-Subordination of claim or interest  FRBP 7001(9) Declaratory Judgment				
FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability  66-Dischargeability - §523(a)(1),(14),(14A) priority tax claims  62-Dischargeability - §523(a)(2), false pretenses, false representation, actual fraud  67-Dischargeability - §523(a)(4), fraud as fiduciary, embezzlement, larceny  (continued next column)	91-Declaratory judgment  FRBP 7001(10) Determination of Removed Action  01-Determination of removed claim or cause  Other  SS-SIPA Case – 15 U.S.C. §§78aaa et.seq.  02-Other (e.g. other actions that would have been brought in state court if unrelated to bankruptcy case)				
☐ Check if this case involves a substantive issue of state law		this is asserted to be a class action under FRCP 23			
□ Check if a jury trial is demanded in complaint	Demand \$ \$96,184.09 plus interest, costs,				
Other Relief Sought Determination that Teague & Wetsel, PLLC's claim is non-dischargeable;		attorney fees.			

determination of Teague & Wetsel, PLLC's secured interest in Defendant's real property; adequate protection for Teague & Wetsel, PLLC's interest in real property.

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#### B1040 (FORM 1040) (12/15)

BANKRUPTCY CASE IN WHICH THIS ADVERSARY PROCEEDING ARISES					
NAME OF DEBTOR Ronald George Morain		BANKRUPTCY CASE NO. 23-11267			
DISTRICT IN WHICH CASE IS PENDINGWestern		DIVISION OFFICE OKC	NAME OF JUDGE Sarah Hall		
RELATED ADVERSARY PROCEEDING (IF ANY)					
PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT		ADVERSARY		
			PROCEEDING NO.		
DISTRICT IN WHICH ADVERSARY IS PENDIN	NG	DIVISION OFFICE	NAME OF JUDGE		
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PLAINTIFF)					
Cody Kerns					
DATE		PRINT NAME OF ATTORY	NEY (OR PLAINTIFF)		
8-10-2023		Cody Ker	ns		

#### INSTRUCTIONS

The filing of a bankruptcy case creates an "estate" under the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court which consists of all of the property of the debtor, wherever that property is located. Because the bankruptcy estate is so extensive and the jurisdiction of the court so broad, there may be lawsuits over the property or property rights of the estate. There also may be lawsuits concerning the debtor's discharge. If such a lawsuit is filed in a bankruptcy court, it is called an adversary proceeding.

A party filing an adversary proceeding must also must complete and file Form 1040, the Adversary Proceeding Cover Sheet, unless the party files the adversary proceeding electronically through the court's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system (CM/ECF). (CM/ECF captures the information on Form 1040 as part of the filing process.) When completed, the cover sheet summarizes basic information on the adversary proceeding. The clerk of court needs the information to process the adversary proceeding and prepare required statistical reports on court activity.

The cover sheet and the information contained on it do not replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, the Bankruptcy Rules, or the local rules of court. The cover sheet, which is largely self-explanatory, must be completed by the plaintiff's attorney (or by the plaintiff if the plaintiff is not represented by an attorney). A separate cover sheet must be submitted to the clerk for each complaint filed.

Plaintiffs and Defendants. Give the names of the plaintiffs and defendants exactly as they appear on the complaint.

Attorneys. Give the names and addresses of the attorneys, if known.

Party. Check the most appropriate box in the first column for the plaintiffs and the second column for the defendants.

Demand. Enter the dollar amount being demanded in the complaint.

**Signature.** This cover sheet must be signed by the attorney of record in the box on the second page of the form. If the plaintiff is represented by a law firm, a member of the firm must sign. If the plaintiff is pro se, that is, not represented by an attorney, the plaintiff must sign.

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# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

)	
)	Case No. 23-11267
)	Chapter 7
)	
_)	
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	ADV. No
)	
)	
)	
)	

# COMPLAINT TO DETERMINE DISCHARGEABILITY OF DEBT <u>AND OBJECTION TO DISCHARGE</u>

Pursuant to Rule 4007 and Rule 7001 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Creditor/Plaintiff Teague & Wetsel, PLLC ("T&W"), a creditor in this case, alleges the following in support of its Complaint to Determine Dischargeability of Debt and Objection to Discharge.

## **INTRODUCTION**

This Complaint to Determine Dischargeability of Debt is timely. This complaint is filed by the deadline for objection to dischargeability pursuant to Rule 4007(c) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and according to Section 9 of the Notice of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Case presently before this Court. Ronald George Morain ("Debtor") claims T&W's claim as a general unsecured claim. [See Doc. 1, Sched. E/F, pg. 23 of 55, Creditor 4.9]. This is not correct. T&W's claim is a secured claim based upon a consensual lien. T&W's lien is attached to real property, located at 4701 Tanglewood Court, Norman, OK 73072 ("the Collateral"). As a secured creditor,

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T&W is entitled to adequate protection to protect its interests in the Collateral. Based upon Debtor's valuation of the Collateral, Debtor cannot provide adequate protection to T&W save for exempting T&W's claim against Debtor from discharge. T&W respectfully requests this Court exempt T&W's claim against Debtor from discharge, and permit T&W to enforce its consensual lien against the Debtor at the proper time after this bankruptcy proceeding finishes.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 1. Debtor filed his voluntary petition with this Bankruptcy Court on May 16, 2023 for relief under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code [Doc: 1].
- 2. The deadline for filing objections to discharge is August 14, 2023, as stated in Section 9 of the Notice of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Case in this case.
- 3. Section 10 of the Notice of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Case instructed T&W not to file a proof of claim.
- 4. This Court has jurisdiction of this core matter pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. §§1408 and 1409. Further, this Court has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1334.
- 5. T&W is a professional limited liability corporation, who, at all relevant times has been a resident of Edmond, Oklahoma County, State of Oklahoma.
- 6. Debtor, at all relevant times, has been resident of Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma.
  - 7. This adversary proceeding is brought pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§361, 522, 523.

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#### **ALLEGATIONS ON CLAIMS**

- 8. On November 19, 2015, Debtor executed and delivered to T&W a certain Legal Representation Agreement ("Agreement") under which Debtor agreed to pay T&W the amounts due under the Agreement with interest. To secure the payment of the indebtedness, Debtor consented to a lien on the Collateral.
- 9. T&W recorded the consensual lien on April 07, 2022 in the records of the Cleveland County Clerk, State of Oklahoma.
- 10. T&W's claim in this proceeding is based on the Agreement. T&W is the current owner of the Agreement. Absent exempting T&W's claim from discharge, Debtor cannot provide adequate protection to protect T&W's interest in the Property.
- 11. According to the Agreement, T&W is entitled to monetary relief in the amount of \$96,184.09; plus accrued interest through June 13, 2023 in the amount of \$12,121.30; plus interest accruing at the rate of 18.00% per year (\$51.58 per day); a reasonable attorney's fees; and costs of this action. T&W already litigated this matter against Morain in CJ-2022-1914 in Oklahoma State Court.
- 12. These amounts are a consensual lien on the Collateral subject only to M&T Mortgage. According to the Agreement, T&W is entitled to foreclose and sell the Collateral to satisfy the debts Debtor incurred under the Agreement.
- 13. After taking into account all secured claims against the Collateral, including T&W's secured claim, the Collateral is of no value to the bankruptcy estate. Debtors has no equity in the Collateral, or the equity is of such insignificant amount that there is no value to the bankruptcy estate; the Collateral is not necessary for an effective reorganization; and the Collateral

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should be abandoned so T&W may commence the foreclosure of its lien upon the Collateral in accordance with the Agreement. The Debtor claims the Collateral is exempt property and is worth \$123,748.00. However, Debtor failed to include T&W's security interest against the Collateral. Counting all outstanding security interests in the Collateral, Debtor has no equity in the Collateral. The total of T&W's security interest and M&T Bank's mortgage is worth substantially more than the value of the Collateral.

- 14. T&W will suffer irreparable injury, loss, and damage unless the automatic stay is lifted so as to permit T&W to commence its foreclosure action, or in the alternative, Debtor is required to provide T&W with adequate protection of its interest in the Collateral by exempting T&W's claim from discharge.
  - 15. Debtor has claimed the Collateral as an exempt asset.
- 16. T&W is entitled to an order modifying the automatic stay to allow foreclosure of its security interest on the Collateral, or in the alternative, an order requiring Debtor to provide adequate protection of T&W's interest in the Collateral.
- 17. Based on information and belief, T&W believes Debtor is unable to provide traditional adequate protection for T&W's interest in the Collateral. T&W's interest in the Collateral arose and was filed more than a year before Debtor filed the Petition for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in this case. Debtor respectfully requests this Court make a determination that T&W's claim exempt from discharge by reason of T&W's consensual lien.
- 18. T&W's claim against Debtor is exempt from discharge, pursuant to <u>11</u> <u>U.S.C.522(C)</u>. Debtor states that T&W is an unsecured creditor. [Doc 1, page 23]. Contra, T&W

is a secured creditor with a consensual lien on the Collateral. T&W's claim is a debt secured by a consensual lien that is not avoided pursuant to §§ 544, 545, 547, 548, 549, or 724(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and which is not void under §506(d) of the bankruptcy code. **See 11 U.S.C.** §522(c)(2).

19. In consideration of the above, T&W respectfully requests that this Court issue an order lifting the automatic stay and directing that the Collateral be abandoned from the Bankruptcy Estate. In the alternative, T&W requests an order requiring the Debtor to provide adequate protection to T&W's interest in the Collateral. Pursuant to §§361(3) & 522(c) of the Bankruptcy Code, T&W respectfully requests that this Court determine that T&W's claim in this case is a secured claim based upon the consented lien on the Collateral. T&W further requests an order declaring T&W is entitled to enforce its security interest following the conclusion of this bankruptcy.

## WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 1. Determination by this Court that the debt owed to T&W is non-dischargeable;
- 2. judgment for the amount owed to T&W in the amount of \$96,184.09;
- 3. accrued interest through June 13, 2023 in the amount of \$12,121.30;
- 4. interest accruing at the rate of 18.00% annum; \$51.58 per diem;
- 5. costs incurred in this action;
- 6. attorney fees incurred by T&W in this action;
- 7. an order directing that appropriate execution issue against Debtors for the amount of the judgment granted to T&W; and

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8. any and all other relief which this Court deems just and proper, and to which T&W may be entitled.

/s/ Cody D. Kerns

Charles E. Wetsel, OBA #12035 Cody D. Kerns, OBA #34697 TEAGUE & WETSEL, PLLC 1741 West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 120 Edmond, Oklahoma 73013 Telephone: (405) 285-9200

Telephone: (405) 285-9200 Telecopier: (405) 509-2362 (direct)

cwetsel@teaguewetsel.com ckerns@teaguewetsel.com Attorneys for Plaintiff Teague & Wetsel, PLLC Case: 23-11267 Doc: 15 Filed: 08/10/23 Page: 9 of 13

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on August 10, 2023 I electronically transmitted this document to the Court Clerk using the ECF System for filing. Based on the records currently on file, the Court Clerk will transmit a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following ECF registrants:

Alexander E. Hilton III on behalf of Debtor Ronald Morian AEHiltonlaw@gmail.com

Bankruptcy Trustee kevin@harrisandcoffey.com

Oklahoma Employment Security Commission bankruptcy@oesc.state.ok.us

United States Trustee <u>USTPRegion20.OC.ECF@usdoj.gov</u>

AMEX, Correspondence/Bankruptcy bncnotices@becket-lee.com

Communication FCU <a href="mailto:cmims@comfedcu.org">cmims@comfedcu.org</a>

M & T Bank camanagement@mtb.com

Receivables Performance Mgmt. Supportservices@receivablesperformance.com

Tinker FCU bankruptcy@tinkerfcu.org

/s/ Cody D. Kerns

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I certify that on August 10, 2023 I also served this document by first-class mail to all counsel who have entered an appearance in this matter, and to all parties listed on the attached mailing matrix prepared by Debtor who are **not** ECF registrants.

Howard Berkson Boston Avenue Law 401 S. Boston Ave., Ste 500	Lacey Shirley Law 302 S. Chyenne Ave., Ste. 110 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103-3435	Lacey Shirley Law 1874 S. Boulder Ave Tulsa, OK 74119-5234
Tulsa, OK 74103-4023		
Tinker-mc, Attn: Bankruptcy PO Box 45750	Village Roofing & Siding 3334 W Main St.	Village Roofing & Siding LLC 11901 N MacArthur Blvd
Tinker AFB, OK 73145-0750	Norman, OK 73072-4805	Oklahoma City, Ok 73162
Ally Financial, INC ATTN: BANKRUPTCY 500 Woodward Ave. Detroit MI 48226	AMEX Correspondence/Bankruptcy PO Box 981540 El Paso, TX 79998	Bank of America ATTN: BANKRUPTCY 4909 Savarese Circle Tampa, FL 33634
Barclays Bank Delaware ATTN: BANKRUPTCY PO Box 8801 Wilmington, DE 19899	Citibank/ The Home Depot Citicorp CR SRVS/Centralized Bankruptcy PO Box 790040 ST Louis, MO 63179	Communication FCU ATTN: BANKRUPTCY 4141 NW Expressway, Ste 200 Oklahoma City, OK 73116
M & T Bank ATTN: BANKRUPTCY PO Box 844 Buffalo, NY 14240	Teague & Wetsel, PLLC 1741 W 33rd St., STE 120 Edmond, OK 73013	Tinker FCU ATTN: BANKRUPTCY PO Box 45750 Tinker AFB, OK 73145
Target NB C/O Financial & Retail Services Mailstop BT PO Box 9475 Minneapolis, MN 55440	Receivables Performance MGMT SATTN: BANKRUPTCY PO Box 1548 Lynnwood, WA 98046	Andrea Golden PO Box 720540 Norman, OK 73070

Boston Avenue Law 401 S Boston Ave, Ste 500 Tulsa, OK 74103

/s/ Cody D. Kerns

Casse: 2233-111122677 Door: 115 Hillerth: 0259/1100/2233 PPagge: 5131.off5153

ALLY FINANCIAL, INC ATTN: BANKRUPTCY 500 WOODARD AVE DETROIT MI 48226

AMEX CORRESPONDENCE/BANKRUPTCY PO BOX 981540 EL PASO TX 79998

ANDREA GOLDEN PO BOX 720540 NORMAN OK 73070

BANK OF AMERICA ATTN: BANKRUPTCY 4909 SAVARESE CIRCLE TAMPA FL 33634

BARCLAYS BANK DELAWARE ATTN: BANKRUPTCY PO BOX 8801 WILMINGTON DE 19899

BOSTON AVENUE LAW 401 S BOSTON AVE STE 500 TULSA OK 74103

CITIBANK/THE HOME DEPOT CITICORP CR SRVS/CENTRALIZED BANKRUPTCY PO BOX 790040 ST LOUIS MO 63179

COMMUNICATION FCU ATTN: BANKRUPTCY 4141 NW EXPRESSWAY, STE 200 OKLAHOMA OK 73116 Casse: 2233-11112667 Door: 115 Hillerth: 0259/1160/223 PRaype: 51/2 of f5153

HOWARD BERKSON BOSTON AVENUE LAW 401 S. BOSTON AVE. STE. 500 TULSA OK 74103

LACEY SHIRLEY LAW 302 S. CHEYENNE AVE. STE. 110 TULSA OK 74103

LACEY SHIRLEY LAW 1874 S. BOULDER AVE. TULSA OK 74119

M & T BANK ATTN: BANKRUPTCY PO BOX 844 BUFFALO NY 14240

RECEIVABLES PERFORMANCE MGMT ATTN: BANKRUPTCY PO BOX 1548 LYNNWOOD WA 98046

TARGET NB
C/O FINANCIAL & RETAIL SERVICES
MAILSTOP BT PO BOX 9475
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55440

TEAGUE & WETZEL 1741 W 33RD ST STE. #120 EDMOND OK 73013

TINKER FCU ATTN: BANKRUPTCY PO BOX 45750 TINKER AFB OK 73145 Casse: 2233-111122677 Door: 115 Ffileed: 0258/1160/2233 FFagge: 5153-off5153

TINKER-MC ATTN: BANKRUPTCY PO BOX 45750 TINKER AFB OK 73145

VILLAGE ROOFING & SIDING 3334 W MAIN ST.
NORMAN OK 73072

VILLAGE ROOFING & SIDING, LLC 11901 N MACARTHUR BLVD OKLAHOMA CITY OK 73162